



A Brief Analysis of Students' Chinese-style Competitive Behavior

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Abstract: This academic paper delves into the intriguing competitive behaviors and phenomena exhibited by Chinese students. It provides a preliminary analysis of the root causes of competitive psychology, considering both the advantages and disadvantages of resulting social phenomena — specifically, over-competition and under-competition — from cultural and sociological perspectives. Utilizing Daxing District in Beijing as a case study, the paper identifies six influential factors and constructs a competitiveness model through expert scoring and a moving weighted average method.

Keywords: analysis, competitive, behavior, psychology, model

1. Introduction

In the current educational landscape, Chinese-style learning has undergone distinct phases. The initial version, often referred to as “1.0,” primarily focuses on acquiring fundamental concepts within the confines of the school system and prepping for the Gaokao Exam. Students are expected to fill any gaps in their learning through external means or strive for excellence through individual effort. However, a more evolved approach, termed “2.0,” has emerged. In this advanced system, external educational resources play a pivotal role by supplementing formal schooling. These resources not only contribute to the overall strength of educational institutions but also facilitate experiential learning and eventual success.

Such concept of “rushing and competing” in 1.0 education is no longer shrouded in mystery nor myth; it has become a commonsense of the mass. The paper strives to test out such claims that the true measure of success lies beyond mere speed and competition. In this context, adaptability and strategic utilization of available resources play a crucial role in achieving sustainable success.

Moreover, the temporal allocation of learning hours significantly impacts the depth and quality of understanding. Devoting 10 hours to a task differs markedly from dedicating a mere 2 hours. Repetition plays a pivotal role: meticulously brushing over material, committing knowledge points to memory, and achieving mastery. This paper seeks to show that such methods tend to enhance the performance and mental health of students through a correlational study.

At the same time, the balance between regional competitive intensity and adaptability is essential to improve human behavior and psychology and promote sustainable regional growth. Daxing District of Beijing covers an area of 1,036 square kilometers and has experienced significant development due to the construction of Beijing Daxing International Airport. Take Daxing District of Beijing as an example, provides valuable insights into regional competitiveness Literature Review.

2. Literature Review

The exploration of competitive psychology and its impact on educational dynamics has garnered significant attention in scholarly circles. Researcher of this paper has delved into various facets, examining both the advantages and drawbacks of competition within educational contexts. After careful examination, three factors are observed to pay an influence.

2.1 Cultural Factors

Traditional Chinese culture is steeped in profound competitive factors, exemplified by figures like Wangzi Jackie Chan, Yushu Yingjie, and the pursuit of Success and Fame. These cultural elements find their roots in Confucianism, a philosophical system that occupies a central position in Chinese tradition. While Confucianism emphasizes harmony, it also inherently embraces the notion of competition. Drawing from classical texts, we uncover insights into the interplay between Confucian values and competitive ideals:

The Zhou Yi, an ancient Chinese text, asserts that a true gentleman continually strives for self-improvement. This pursuit aligns with the competitive spirit, emphasizing personal growth and excellence.

Secondly, Confucius, the revered sage, posited that even when others reject certain principles, an individual of virtue should uphold them. The ability to stand alone and adhere to moral standards reflects a form of competition — one rooted in inner strength. Xunzi, another influential Confucian thinker, acknowledged human desires. He argued that unattainable

desires lead to frustration, while boundless desires result in perpetual conflict. Here, the competition become evident.

Within the Confucian value system, competition exists as a multifaceted phenomenon. It is not merely about rivalry but rather about harmonious and friendly engagement. The legitimacy of competition lies in its alignment with moral principles. The concept of competition, with morality at its core, has become deeply ingrained in Chinese cultural consciousness.

Overall, Confucian underpinnings shape educational practices, societal norms, and individual aspirations.

2.2 Behavioral Psychology Factors

In recent years, the term “involution” has gained prominence as a descriptor for certain cultural dynamics in Chinese high school. It refers to a state in which a system or process becomes increasingly complex internally without achieving significant external progress. This paper investigates the origins of involution, its theoretical underpinnings, and its relevance in contemporary contexts.

The concept of involution traces back to Immanuel Kant’s “Critique of Judgment”, where it was initially proposed. However, it was Gordon Wierser Development, a Russian-American anthropologist, who later provided a comprehensive definition. Wierser characterized involution as a cultural pattern that lacks transformative momentum, remaining trapped in a perpetual cycle of internal complexity.

In Asia, such behavioral changes date back to the Agricultural booms of the 20th century. Anthropologist Geertz’s study of Indonesia during the colonial era highlighted the phenomenon of “agricultural involution”. Java, the primary food-producing region, faced population pressure and competition for limited resources. Efforts to increase agricultural sophistication led to higher yields per unit of land (mu). However, per capita output remained stagnant, resulting in a prolonged plateau in living standards.

Nevertheless, as this paper strives to prove, involution poses challenges for economic growth, as it inhibits innovation and diversification. Societies caught in involution cycles struggle to break free from internal complexities, hindering overall progress. Therefore, managing competition effectively is crucial to prevent involution. Striking a balance between healthy rivalry and overconsumption is essential for sustainable development.

In this scenario, involution serves as a cautionary tale for societies and policymakers. Recognizing its signs and addressing them proactively can help mitigate its adverse effects. As the paper navigates an increasingly competitive world, understanding involution is vital for fostering genuine progress while avoiding the pitfalls of internal complexity.

2.3 The Rule of Apathy

Excessive competition can result in a disregard for established rules. In everyday life, city witness behaviors such as running red lights, occupying seats, cutting lanes, and avoiding queues. Two decades ago, during the SARS outbreak in Beijing, people scrambled for masks, banlan root, and white vinegar. A decade later, during the bird flu scare, the rush for banlan root repeated. More recently, when Japan’s Fukushima nuclear power plant leaked, coastal areas in China experienced a frenzy of salt purchases. And throughout the three-year COVID-19 pandemic, Majority area witnessed a surge in demand for masks, ibuprofen, and oxygen concentrators.

While striving for survival security in the face of scarce resources is understandable, some behaviors associated with excessive competition deviate from established norms. Prioritizing personal gain over adherence to rules, seeking shortcuts, and disregarding queues all reflect a competitive mindset that can lead to disorder. Whether it’s vying for status privileges or finding ways to bypass regulations, these actions demonstrate a lack of regard for established norms. Instead of attracting contempt, such behavior often evokes envy and admiration, contributing to a decline in public rationality within society.

3. Research Methods

Maintaining an adaptive level of competition within a region is essential for sustainable development. To achieve this, a systematic approach is required, involving continuous measurement, evaluation, analysis, planning, improvement, and feedback correction. In this study, we focus on measuring the degree of competition in a specific urban area: Daxing District in Beijing, China.

This paper defines an indicator called “competitiveness” to assess the suitability of competition within the region. Competitiveness reflects the balance between competitive intensity and adaptability.

Step 1: The team selected six key factors to calculate regional competitiveness based on Government Official Statistics of “Sustainable Growth” in Daxing District:

(1) Registered Population of Juveniles Within the Age Gap of 16-18 for Highschool Education: Reflects the size and demographic composition of the population.

(2) Gross Regional Product (GDP): Indicates economic output and productivity.

(3) Number of Students Enrolled in Ordinary High Schools: Represents educational infrastructure and human capital development.

(4) General Public Budget Expenditure on Healthcare and Education: Reflects public investment and resource allocation.

(5) Balance of Residents' Savings Deposits for Child Education: Indicates financial stability and consumer behavior.

(6) Number of Beds in Various Social Welfare Adoptive Units for Juveniles: Reflects social welfare infrastructure and quality of life.

Step 2: The expert committee assigned weights to each factor based on their perceived impact on regional competitiveness. The team used a scale from -2 (strong negative impact) to +2 (strong positive impact):

- Positive correlation factors (e.g., GDP growth) received positive weights.
- Negative correlation factors (e.g., reduced student enrollment) received negative weights.

The assigned weights for Daxing District were as follows:

- Registered Population: 1.8
- GDP: 1.7
- Number of Students Enrolled: 0.5
- General Public Budget Expenditure: 0.3
- Residents' Savings Deposits: -0.7
- Social Welfare Beds: -1.2

By employing the expert scoring method, researchers developed a weighted competition index model to assess regional competitiveness of Daxing District. This approach provides valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners to strike a balance between competition and adaptability.

4. Research Results & Analysis

Table 1. Preliminary Results

Statistical indicators and year-on-year growth rate of Daxing District, Beijing from 2011 to 2020						
	Registered Population (10 000 Thousand)	% year-on-year(positive correlation)	GDP (100 million)	% year-on-year (positive correlation)	Number of students enrolled in regular secondary schools (10,000)	% year-on-year (positive correlation)
2011	61		359.5		2.67	
2012	62.2	2	468	30	2.75	3
2013	63.6	2.3	517.4	10.6	2.85	3.6
2014	65.1	2.4	564.9	9.2	2.72	-4.6
2015	66.3	1.8	614.2	8.7	2.52	-7.4
2016	68.4	3.2	678.7	10.5	2.31	-8.3
2017	69.9	2.2	759.5	11.9	2.27	-1.7
2018	71.6	2.4	846.6	11.5	2.30	1.3
2019	73.3	2.5	907.6	7.2	2.34	1.7
2020	74.8	1.9	931	2.6	2.62	12
	General Public Budget Expenditure (100 million)	% year-on-year growth rate (negative correlation)	Balance of Residents' Savings Deposits (100 million)	% year-on-year growth rate (negative correlation)	Number of beds in various types of social welfare adoptive units	% year-on-year growth rate (negative correlation)
2011	91		728		4848	
2012	101.4	11.4	896	23	5085	4.9
2013	132.9	31.1	988	10.2	5097	0.2
2014	159.7	20.2	1059	7.2	5749	12.8
2015	291.8	82.7	1134	7.1	6060	5.4
2016	239.4	-18	1228	8.3	6080	0.3
2017	229	-4.3	1307	6.4	6509	7.1
2018	259.9	13.5	1358	3.9	6456	-0.8
2019	256.3	-1.4	1463	7.7	7303	13.1
2020	294.4	14.9	1768	21	8151	11.6

Statistical indicators and year-on-year growth rate of Daxing District, Beijing from 2011 to 2020 as is shown in Table 1. According to the formula, the degree of competitiveness is calculated on a three-year cycle.

- 2011-2013: the degree of competitiveness = 22.845;
- 2012-2014: the degree of competitiveness = 14.34
- 2013-2015: the degree of competitiveness = -17.29
- 2014-2016: the degree of competitiveness = -12.69
- 2015-2017: the degree of competitiveness = -3.88
- 2016-2018: the degree of competitiveness = 17.72
- 2017-2019: the degree of competitiveness = 15.06
- 2018-2020: the degree of competitiveness = 9.92

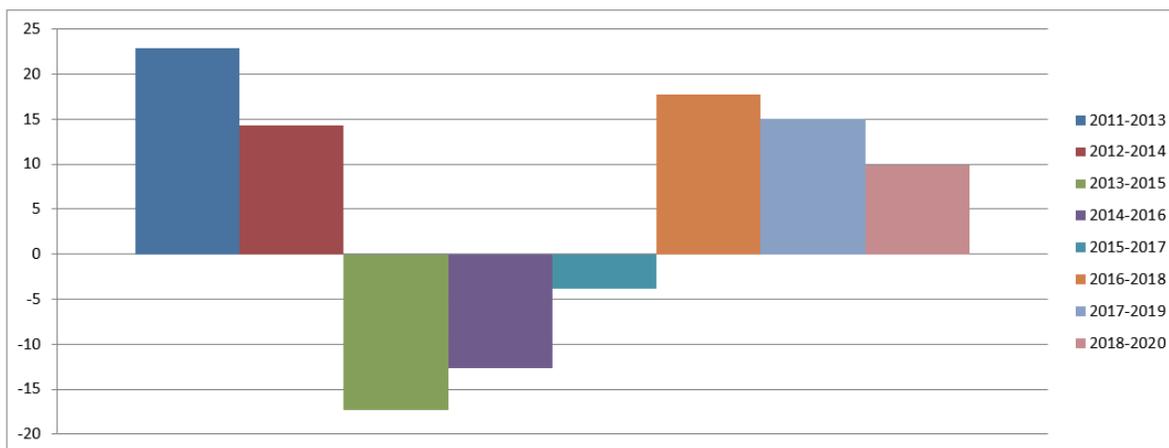


Figure 1. Trending Graph of the Preliminary Results

The examination of competition dynamics in Daxing District reveals noteworthy patterns. As is shown in Figure 1, the district has consistently maintained a high level of competition. However, a discernible downward trajectory has emerged over the years.

Around 2014, the construction of Beijing Daxing International Airport significantly influenced the competitive landscape. Notably, the substantial increase in general public budget expenditure associated with this infrastructure project led to several positive outcomes. These included the creation of more jobs, enhanced public services, and increased investment returns. Consequently, the degree of competition experienced a notable reduction during this period. As large-scale investment activities associated with the airport project reached their conclusion, the competitive environment in Daxing District returned to normal levels. The subsequent gradual decline in competition aligns with regional development objectives. A moderate degree of competition, coupled with this downward trend, is poised to foster positive outcomes for the region.

In summary, a balance between competition intensity and adaptability is essential for promoting sustainable regional growth.

5. Conclusion and Future Studies

The interplay between competition and cultural norms has long shaped the fabric of Chinese students. As an intrinsic force, competition drives progress and innovation among students. However, striking the right balance is crucial. By analyzing the underlying causes and resulting social phenomena in this paper, the researchers gained valuable insights into the dynamics of competitive behavior.

The research introduced a novel approach — the competitiveness model — constructed through expert scoring and a moving weighted average method. Applying this model to Daxing District, Beijing, this paper intuitively assessed the region’s competitiveness. The findings revealed that an appropriate degree of competition is pivotal for regional development. Notably, moderation, rather than excessive competition, emerges as the catalyst for growth.

These insights hold significant implications for policymakers and practitioners. By integrating the paper’s findings into a comprehensive cycle of measurement, evaluation, analysis, planning, improvement, and feedback, we can foster an environment where competition aligns harmoniously with societal well-being. As the researchers navigate the intricate interplay between ambition and adaptability, this study serves as a beacon for sustainable development in Daxing District and beyond.

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